

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07658 01 OF 02 091400Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 SSM-03
EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 DOEE-00
/098 W

-----032884 091411Z /41

O 091351Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6461
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 07658

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PBOR, IS, EG, US
SUBJ: AMOCO INCIDENT

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 3141, (B) CAIRO 7622

1. AMOCO EGYPT MANAGER RUBASH RETURNED FROM VISIT TO
RAS SHUKAIR AT 1145 HOURS LOCAL MARCH 9 AND PROVIDED
EMBOFF WITH FOLLOWING STATUS REPORT ON SITUATION IN GULF
OF SUEZ BLOCK 373.

2. ISRAELI WARSHIP (WHICH RUBASH DESCRIBES AS LARGE
VESSEL RESEMBLING FRIGATE) PULLED UP TO AMOCO MARKER
BUOY EVENING MARCH 8 AND REMAINS TIED TO BUOY, PREVENTING
WORK FROM COMMENCING. IN LATE EVENING MARCH 8 BOAT
APPROACHED RIG 511, WHICH STANDING ABOUT 1000 METERS WEST
OF BUOY, WITH ORDER THAT BUOY BE RETRIEVED BECAUSE IT IS
"IN ISRAELI WATERS," AND THAT RIG 511 DEPART AREA AND
CEASE OPERATIONS. RIG 511 REFUSED TO RETRIEVE BUOY AND
GUNBOAT RETURNED TO POSITION ALONGSIDE BUOY.

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 07658 01 OF 02 091400Z

3. WARSHIP'S POSITIONING ITSELF AT BUOY FOLLOWED DIS-
CUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE EVENING MARCH 7 AND MUCH
OF DAY MARCH 8 BETWEEN RIG 511 AND ISRAELIS. DURING
DISCUSSIONS MARCH 7 ISRAELI CAPTAIN AGREED, SUBJECT TO
TEL AVIV APPROVAL, THAT RIG 511 COULD BEGIN OPERATIONS
AT POINT 200 METERS WEST OF MARKER BUOY. RIG 511
HAD ACTUALLY SET A NUMBER OF ITS ANCHORS IN THE MORNING

OF MARCH 8, FOLLOWING THIS AGREEMENT, WHEN WARSHIP APPEARED AND SAID THAT 511 WOULD HAVE TO MOVE FURTHER WEST. NO FURTHER REFERENCE TO TEL AVIV INSTRUCTIONS WAS MADE. RIG 511 RETRIEVED ANCHORS AND MOVED WEST. DURING COURSE OF DAY MARCH 8, VARIOUS DISTANCES TO THE WEST WHERE OPERATIONS COULD COMMENCE WERE DEFINED BY ISRAELI CAPTAIN RANGING FROM 300 TO 1000 METERS. FINAL CONTACTS EVENING MARCH 8, HOWEVER, RESULTED IN ORDER THAT RIG DEPART THE AREA AND NOT RETURN. ALTHOUGH ISRAELI CAPTAIN DID NOT SPECIFICALLY SAY SO, AMOCO ASSUMES THAT ORIGINAL COMPROMISE OF 200 METERS (WHICH WOULD HAVE ALLOWED AMOCO TO USE DIRECTIONAL DRILLING TO REACH ITS ORIGINAL GOAL) WAS OVERRULED BY TEL AVIV AND THAT REAL PURPOSE OF EXERCISE IS NOW TO PREVENT AMOCO FROM DRILLING IN AREA AT ALL.

3. DURING COURSE OF CONVERSATIONS MARCH 8, ISRAELI GUNBOAT CAPTAIN GAVE AMOCO FOLLOWING THREE SETS OF COORDINATES WHICH HE SAID DEFINE "ISRAELI MEDIAN LINE" IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA:

(1) LATITUDE 28 DEGREES 07 MINUTES 36 SECONDS
- LONGITUDE 33 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 36 SECONDS

(2) LATITUDE 28 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 18 SECONDS
- LONGITUDE 33 DEGREES 37 MINUTES 06 SECONDS

(3) LATITUDE 27 DEGREES 44 MINUTES 12 SECONDS
- LONGITUDE 33 DEGREES 50 MINUTES 00 SECONDS
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PAGE 03 CAIRO 07658 01 OF 02 091400Z

(AMOCO ASSUMING THAT MIDDLE SET OF COORDINATES DEFINES TURNING POINT IN ISRAELI-DEFINED LINE.)
ACCORDING TO AMOCO'S PLOTTING OF POSITION ITS MARKER BUOY, BUOY IS LOCATED 570 METERS WEST OF THIS ISRAELI-DEFINED LINE AND WELL WEST OF AMOCO'S OWN PLOTTING OF MEDIAN LINE.- ISRAELI PLOTTING OF POSITION OF MARKER BUOY, ON OTHER- HAND, SHOWS BUOY AS JUST EAST OF LINE DEFINED BY 3 SETS OF- COORDINATES. AMOCO MANAGER RUBASH PRESENTED EMBOFF WITH LETTER FROM INSTITUTE SURVEYORS OF AUSTRALIA HYDROGRAPHIC - SURVEY EXPERT WHO IS ON THE SPOT IN RAS SHUKAIR AND WHO CERTIFIES THAT LOCATION OF BUOY IS AS AMOCO PLOTTED IT, I.E., 570 METERS WEST OF ISRAELI-DEFINED LINE. ACCORDING TO AMOCO, EQUIPMENT ON RIG 511 ALLOWS POSITIONING WITHIN ONE METER OF POINT DEFINED BY COORDINATES. INSTITUTE SURVEYORS OF AUSTRALIA EXPERT STATES THAT WHILE ISRAELI WARSHIP NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED IT COULD NOT DUPLICATE ACCURACY OF 511'S EQUIPMENT IN DEFINING LOCATION OF POINT. RIG 511 HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO HAND THIS LETTER TO ISRAELI CAPTAIN IF FURTHER CONTACT TAKES PLACE.

4. THE ABOVE DISPUTE OVER LOCATION OF RIG NOTWITHSTANDING LAST ORDER WHICH AMOCO ACKNOWLEDGES AS HAVING RECEIVED FRO

FROM GUNBOAT IS FOR DEPARTURE OF RIG 511 FROM THE AREA.
THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO AMOCO AND RUBASH HAS REQUESTED
INSTRUCTIONS FROM CHICAGO TO MOVE RIG BACK TO SO-CALLED
200 METER "CONCESSION POINT," (I.E., 200 METERS WEST OF
MARKER BUOY) MORNING MARCH 10. AMOCO ASSUMES THIS POINT
IS WEST OF LINE EVEN BY ISRAELI DEFINITION AND SHOULD
THEREFORE BE ACCEPTABLE. DELAY IN MOVING RIG CAUSED
BY NECESSITY TO SEEK AGREEMENT OF ALL RIG 511 OWNERS.
RIG EVIDENTLY ONLY 50 PERCENT OWNED BY AMOCO, ALTHOUGH

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 07658 02 OF 02 091402Z
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OMB-01 TRSE-00 DOE-11 SOE-02 DOEE-00 NEAE-00 /098 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 CAIRO 07658

OTHER PARTNERS ARE AMERICAN.

5. RUBASH ALSO REPORTED THAT ON MARCH 8 AMOCO'S EGYPTIAN
MANAGER AT RAS SHUKAIR CONTACTED EGYPTIAN
MILITARY IN THE AREA AND WAS ASSURED THAT THERE ARE NO
PLANS TO SEND EGYPTIAN WARSHIPS INTO SOUTHERN GULF OF
SUEZ. RUBASH SAID HE HIMSELF SAW NO INDICATION OF ANY
EGYPTIAN WARSHIPS DURING HIS STAY ON THE RIG.

6. AMOCO HAS TAKEN PICTURES OF ISRAELI GUNBOAT TIED TO
MARKER BUOY AND IS SENDING THEM TO U.S. BY SPECIAL
COURIER AFTERNOON MARCH 9. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
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